In the Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A system for ~~programming~~ providing timing information to a microprocessor-controlled device having a set of mechanical functions that are started and stopped by a time-of-day (TOD), comprising:

      an interactive interface presented on a display of a computer appliance having a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port, enabling a user to select through the interactive display individual ones of the set of mechanical functions of the microprocessor-controlled device, and to select specific TOD for starting or stopping the mechanical functions selected; and

      a thumb drive flash memory unit including a USB connector;

      wherein the computer appliance saves the TOD selected for each mechanical function selected, in a form compatible with and recognizable by the microprocessor-controlled device, to the thumb drive through the USB port, the thumb drive to be ~~transferred~~ carried to the microprocessor-controlled device and engaged to a USB port at the device, to upload the timing information to the device.

21-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~21~~ 20 wherein the programmable device is a timing device for a sprinkler system, and the mechanical functions are opening and closing of switches for controlling water valves.

29-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) A method for ~~programming~~ providing timing information to a microprocessor-controlled device having set of mechanical functions that are started and stopped by a time-of-day (TOD), comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting through an interactive display presented by a computer program specific to the microprocessor-controlled device on a monitor screen of a computer appliance, individual ones of the set of mechanical functions of the microprocessor-controlled device;

selecting for the individual mechanical functions specific TOD for starting and stopping the mechanical functions; and

saving the TOD for each selected mechanical function ~~selected~~ in a form compatible with and recognizable by the microprocessor-controlled device, to a thumb drive flash memory unit including a USB connector through a USB port of the computer appliance, to be ~~transferred~~ carried to the microprocessor-controlled device and engaged to a USB port at the device, to upload the timing information to the device.

32-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ 31 wherein the programmable device is a timing device for a sprinkler system, and the mechanical functions are opening and closing of switches for controlling water valves.

40-41. (Cancelled)